

stood on the front lines in confronting those who would use terror against civilian populations as a means of bringing about political change.

Throughout that time, the United States has stood for the political independence and the physical security of the State of Israel. But we usually find ourselves as being in the rear echelons as standing behind Israel more than standing beside Israel. But not any more.

Ever since 9/11, we in the United States have come to realize that we're members of the same club, that we, too, stand on the front lines alongside Israel in an ongoing war on terror. We not only belong to the same philosophical society, we're also serving in the same outfit.

As we congratulate Israel on its 60th birthday, we look forward to the day when each of us will be able to devote less of our national treasures to the vital work of survival and national defense and be able, instead, to devote more of our national treasures to more profitable enterprises.

On behalf of my fellow Georgians, I congratulate Israel on this milestone, and I pledge my best efforts to making the next 60 years of our relationship together years of peace and prosperity.

STOP HOLDING THE VOTE ON H.R. 3058 HOSTAGE

(Mr. WALDEN of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, by refusing to renew the county payments program, Congress has broken its pledge to rural areas all across this country like Lake County, Oregon, where Federal land covers 61 percent of the county.

Lake County has had to cut its road department from 42 people to 14, the equipment is aging and overworked, it needs maintenance on the roads that's being deferred. In this winter's record snowfall, or near-record, Lake County had to call in the Oregon Air National Guard to come in and help plow the streets so the safety vehicles could get through this county that's larger than the States of Connecticut and Delaware combined. Now they will be forced to let paved roads revert to gravel.

H.R. 3058 would solve this problem and would help keep the roads open in Lake County and schools open throughout the west. Yet H.R. 3058 is still held hostage on the Union Calendar. It's been approved by the committees of this House. It has been held hostage since January 15. This is day 114.

All we're asking is that the majority schedule it for a vote on this House floor. Let us vote on secure rural schools and roads just to vote. That's all. Let's keep the commitment of the Federal Government for 100 years to these rural communities where Federal land makes up the bulk of their counties.

I call on the Democrat leadership, day 114 held hostage, H.R. 3058, bring it up for a vote.

□ 1015

JONELL STINNETT

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to tell the story of Jonell Stinnett from my district in Fairdale, Kentucky. Here are her words:

"My story is about my brother and his wife who died last September. Carol, my sister-in-law, had colon cancer for over 7 years. She took chemo for the last 5 years of her life.

"My brother had a heart attack 2 years after she was diagnosed. A week after his heart surgery, he had a massive stroke which paralyzed his right side, and then he got a diabetic ulcer on his foot and finally had to have his leg amputated.

"Needless to say, their medical bills were massive. They lost everything they had worked for their whole life. I take care of him now, and he needed to file bankruptcy. He needs a ramp to get out his front door, a safe way to take a shower, but there is no help anywhere.

"I believe as an American citizen who has worked, paid taxes, and served his country in the Armed Forces, there should be some sort of help. I don't know what, but with all the intelligent people in Washington, it seems they could come up with some kind of plan for people like these so they don't lose all they have made."

That was Jonell Stinnett, one voice from Kentucky's Third District.

GAS PRICES

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today because high gas prices are placing an increasingly heavy burden on everyone, including my fellow West Virginians. As gas prices continue to spike, we deserve a sound energy policy that creates new domestic sources of energy, increases supply and puts downward pressure on gas prices.

I've supported anti-gouging legislation and called on the President to halt shipments to the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, which could increase supply and possibly save as much as 24 cents from the price of a gallon of gas.

We've also increased fuel economy standards to make each gallon stretch a little further. Yet West Virginians deserve a more comprehensive, long-term solution that provides real stability and actually leads to the creation of new energy.

From clean coal to oil exploration and drilling to our desperate need for new refineries to expanded natural gas exploration, we have a wide range of

options and ways to make a difference. Unfortunately, many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have stood in the way of a truly comprehensive energy policy.

It's time that Congress stop the rhetoric and work for real solutions.

NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SOLIS). Pursuant to House Resolution 1174 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5818.

□ 1018

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5818) to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make loans to States to acquire foreclosed housing and to make grants to States for related costs, with Mr. McNULTY (Acting Chairman) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, May 7, 2008, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 110-621 by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE) had been postponed.

Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in House Report 110-621 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 4 by Mr. HENSARLING of Texas.

Amendment No. 7 by Mr. ALTMIRE of Pennsylvania.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. HENSARLING

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the yeas prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 4 offered by Mr. HENSARLING:

Page 2, line 10, strike "and grant".
Page 3, line 1, strike "and grants".
Page 3, line 10, strike "AND GRANTS".
Page 3, line 13, strike "make grants under section 5(a) to qualified States and".
Page 3, lines 18 and 19, strike "make a grant under this Act only to a State, and may".

Page 4, line 25, strike "grant and".
Page 5, line 3, strike "grant and".
Page 5, line 7, strike "grant or".
Page 6, line 8, strike "grant and".
Page 6, lines 21 and 22, strike "grant amounts, and for".

Page 7, line 1, strike “grant or”.
Strike line 22 on page 8 and all that follows through page 9, line 2.

Page 9, line 9, strike “GRANT AMOUNTS AND”.

Page 9, line 11, strike “grant amount or”.
Page 9, lines 12 and 13, strike “foreclosure grant share”.

Page 9, line 13, strike “or”.
Page 9, lines 13 and 14, strike “, respectively,”.

Page 9, line 20, strike “grant amount or”.
Page 9, line 22, strike “foreclosure grant share or”.

Page 9, line 23, strike “, respectively,” and “the grant amount or”.

Page 9, line 25, strike “foreclosure grant share or”.

Page 10, line 1, strike “, respectively,”.
Page 10, line 2, strike “grant amounts or”.
Page 10, line 6, strike “grant amounts or”.
Page 10, line 9, strike “grant amount or”.
Page 10, line 11, strike “grant amount or”.
Page 10, line 13, strike “foreclosure grant share or”.

Page 10, line 14, strike “, respectively,”.
Page 10, line 16, strike “grant or”.
Page 10, line 18, strike “or grants”.
Strike line 23 on page 10 and all that follows through page 11, line 10.

Page 12, line 3, strike “grant and”.
Page 12, strike lines 5 through 7.
Page 12, line 14, strike “grant amounts and”.

Page 12, lines 17 and 18, strike “such grant amounts and”.

Page 12, line 19, strike “grant amounts and”.

Page 12, line 20, strike “, respectively,”.
Page 13, line 8, strike “grant amounts and”.

Page 13, lines 11 and 12, strike “grant amounts and”.

Page 13, line 13, strike “grant amounts and”.

Page 13, line 14, strike “, respectively,”.
Page 14, lines 1 and 2, strike “grant and”.
Page 14, line 5, strike “grant and”.
Page 14, line 8, strike “grant and”.
Page 14, line 12, strike “grant amounts and”.

Page 14, line 17, strike “grant amounts and”.

Page 17, strike lines 21 through 25.
Strike line 18 on page 19 and all that follows through page 21, line 24.

Page 22, line 2, strike “grant or”.
Strike line 12 on page 22 and all that follows through page 24, line 4.

Page 24, line 6, strike “grant or”.
Page 24, lines 7 and 8, strike “grant and”.
Page 24, line 23, strike “or grant”.
Page 24, line 25, strike “or grant”.
Page 27, line 13, strike “grant or”.
Page 27, line 19, strike “or grant”.

Page 28, lines 12 and 13, strike “receives a grant under this Act or”.

Page 28, lines 15 and 16, strike “obligation of such grant amounts and”.

Page 28, line 20, strike “obligate all such grant amounts and”.

Page 28, lines 24 and 25, strike “outlay all such grant amounts and”.

Page 30, line 3, strike “a grant or” and insert “an”.

Page 30, line 13, strike “grant or”.
Page 30, lines 14 and 15, strike “grant or”.
Page 30, line 19, strike “grant or”.
Page 35, strike lines 8 through 10.
Page 35, line 21, strike “\$7,500,000,000” and insert “\$15,000,000,000”.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 190, noes 219, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 295]

AYES—190

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Bachus
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Biggart
Blunt
Bilbray
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Camp (MI)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Dent
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Fox
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hulshof
Hunter
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jordan
Keller
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline (MN)
Knollenberg
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Lamborn
Lampson
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCarthy (CA)
McCauley (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris
Rodgers
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Muggrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Nunes
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Roskam
Royce
Ruppersberger
Ryan (WI)
Sali
Saxton
Scalise
Schmidt
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Tancredo
Terry
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberti
Upton
Walberg
Walden (OR)
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weller
Westmoreland
Whitfield (KY)
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman (VA)
Wolf
Young (FL)

NOES—219

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altman
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Bordallo
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Castor
Cazayoux
Christensen
Clarke
Cleaver
Clyburn
Conyers
Costello
Courtney
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Faleomavaega
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fortuño
Foster
Frank (MA)
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden

Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Norton
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Norton
Oberstar
Obey
Oliver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascarella
Pastor
Payne
Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Rodriguez
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walsh (NY)
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—29

Arcuri
Barrow
Bean
Bishop (GA)
Boren
Campbell (CA)
Carney
Chandler
Clay
Cohen
Cooper
Costa
Cramer
Cubin
Giffords
Goode
Hill
Loebbeck
Mahoney (FL)
McHenry
McIntyre
Melancon
Moore (KS)
Pomeroy
Richardson
Rush
Schiff
Space
Young (AK)

□ 1045

Messrs. SERRANO, JOHNSON of Georgia, FARR, GORDON of Tennessee and Ms. SPEIER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. SLAUGHTER and Mrs. GILLIBRAND changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Chairman, on May 8, 2008, I missed rollcall vote No. 295. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: Rollcall No. 295, “yea.”

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Chairman, on rollcall No. 295, had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Chairman, on rollcall No. 295, had I been present, I would have voted “no.”

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Chairman, parliamentary inquiry.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman may state his inquiry.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Chairman, in light of the conversation that the majority leader and the minority leader had last night as far as leaving votes open, and I believe the majority leader said the vote would be for 15 minutes, and then a 2-minute courtesy period, could you tell me the tally of

the vote at the end of the 15 minutes and the 2-minute courtesy period?

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The gentleman has not stated a parliamentary inquiry.

POINT OF ORDER

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Chairman, I make a point of order under clause 2(a) of rule XX that the vote just ended was held open for the sole purpose of reversing the outcome.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Chair has considered whether the new sentence in clause 2(a) of rule XX should be enforceable in real time.

The black letter of the rule is not dispositive. It uses the mandatory "shall." It might just as well say "should," inasmuch as it is setting a standard of behavior for presiding officers. For this reason the Chair thinks it more sensible to enforce the rule on collateral bases, as by a question of the privileges of the House.

A set of "whereas" clauses in the preamble of a resolution could allege the facts and circumstances tending to indicate a violation more coherently than they could be articulated in argument on a point of order or in debate on an appeal. The resolving clause of a resolution could propose a fitting remedy, rather than requiring the instant selection of a remedy in the face of competing demands for vitiation of the putative result, reversal of the putative result, or admonishment of the presiding officer.

The Chair finds that the new sentence in clause 2(a) of rule XX does not establish a point of order having an immediate procedural remedy. Rather than contemplating a ruling from the Chair in real time, the language should be understood to establish a standard of behavior for presiding officers that might be enforced on collateral bases.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Chairman, with that I appeal the ruling of the Chair.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I move to lay the appeal on the table.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The motion to lay on the table is not in order in the Committee of the Whole.

The question is, Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the Committee?

The question was taken; and the Acting Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. This 15-minute vote on sustaining the ruling of the Chair will be followed by a 5-minute vote.

Mr. LINDER (during the vote). Mr. Chairman, I was standing right by the gentleman who made the motion. The motion was to appeal the ruling of the Chair.

Who changed the motion to sustaining it?

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Chair would advise the gentleman from Geor-

gia that the Chair put the question correctly, that it is whether the ruling of the Chair shall stand.

Mr. LINDER. That wasn't the motion. The motion was to appeal the ruling of the Chair.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question that the Chair properly put was whether the ruling of the Chair shall be sustained.

Mr. LINDER. Would you tell me who changed the ruling from "appeal" to "sustain"?

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Chair would advise the gentleman from Georgia the question on appeal is, as always in the Committee of the Whole, "Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the Committee?"

The Chair understands that the display board initially said "appealing the ruling of the Chair," which was incorrect. So for the information of all Members of the House, in case of any misapprehension, the question is on sustaining the ruling of the Chair, not on whether an appeal shall take place.

Mr. LINDER. I ask unanimous consent that the vote be restarted.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. I object.

Mr. LINDER. I ask unanimous consent that we vacate this vote.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Objection is heard.

Mr. LINDER. So moved.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Such a motion is not in order.

Voting will resume. All Members are advised that the question is on sustaining the ruling of the Chair. Adequate time will remain for any Member who wishes to verify his or her vote.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent again that we vacate the vote.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Is there objection? The Chair hears none.

As soon as the Clerk is prepared, the pending vote will be vacated and the Chair will put the question anew.

The question before the House is, Shall the decision of the Chair stand as the judgment of the Committee?

The question was taken; and the Acting Chairman announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. This 15-minute vote will be followed by a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 235, noes 182, answered "present" 6, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 296]

AYES—235

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow

Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boswell

Boucher
Boyd (FL)
Boyda (KS)
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza

Carnahan
Carney
Carson
Castor
Cazayoux
Chandler
Christensen
Clarke
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis, Lincoln
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly
Doyle
Edwards
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Faleomavaega
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Foster
Frank (MA)
Giffords
Gillibrand
Gonzalez
Goode
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hare
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley

Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee
(TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind
Klein (FL)
Kucinich
LaHood
Lampson
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Mahoney (FL)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNerney
McNulty
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy, Patrick
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Norton
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor
Payne

Perlmutter
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Sherman
Shuler
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Tsongas
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walz (MN)
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch (VT)
Wexler
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wynn
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

NOES—182

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachmann
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Biggert
Billbray
Billirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boustany
Brady (TX)
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Buchanan
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert

Camp (MI)
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Davis (KY)
Davis, David
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Doolittle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)

Everett
Fallin
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fortuño
Fossella
Foxy
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Heller
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson

Hoekstra Miller (MI) Sensenbrenner
 Inglis (SC) Miller, Gary Sessions
 Issa Moran (KS) Shadegg
 Johnson, Sam Murphy, Tim Shays
 Jordan Musgrave Shimkus
 Keller Myrick Shuster
 King (IA) Neugebauer Simpson
 King (NY) Nunes Smith (NE)
 Kingston Pearce Smith (NJ)
 Kirk Peterson (PA) Smith (TX)
 Kline (MN) Petri Souder
 Knollenberg Pitts Stearns
 Kuhl (NY) Poe Sullivan
 Lamborn Porter Tancredo
 Latham Price (GA) Terry
 Latta Pryce (OH) Thornberry
 Lewis (CA) Putnam Tiahrt
 Lewis (KY) Radanovich Tiberi
 Linder Ramstad Turner
 LoBiondo Regula Upton
 Lucas Rehberg Walberg
 Mack Reichert Walden (OR)
 Manzullo Renzi Walsh (NY)
 Marchant Reynolds Wamp
 McCarthy (CA) Rogers (AL) Weldon (FL)
 McCaul (TX) Rogers (KY) Weller
 McCotter Rogers (MI) Westmoreland
 McCreary Ros-Lehtinen Whitfield (KY)
 McHenry Roskam Wilson (NM)
 McHugh Royce Wilson (SC)
 McKeon Ryan (WI) Wittman (VA)
 McMorris Sali Wolf
 Rodgers Saxton Young (AK)
 Mica Scalise
 Miller (FL) Schmidt

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—6

Gilchrest Lungren, Daniel Rohrabacher
 Hulshof E.
 LaTourette Pence

NOT VOTING—15

Bachus Hunter Pickering
 Boehner Loeb sack Platts
 Bordallo McCarthy (NY) Richardson
 Campbell (CA) Miller, George Rush
 Cohen Paul Wu

□ 1121

Mr. ISSA changed his vote from "aye" to "no."

So the decision of the Chair stands as the judgment of the Committee.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. ALTMIRE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. ALTMIRE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. ALTMIRE:

Page 36, after line 2, insert the following new section:

SEC. 15. INELIGIBILITY OF ILLEGAL ALIENS FOR ASSISTANCE.

Aliens who are not lawfully present in the United States shall be ineligible for financial assistance under this Act, as provided and defined by section 214 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 1436a). Nothing in this Act shall be construed to alter the restrictions or definitions in such section 214.

Page 36, line 3, strike "15" and insert "16".

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 391, noes 33, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 297]

AYES—391

Abercrombie Delahunt King (IA)
 Ackerman DeLauro King (NY)
 Aderholt Dent Kingston
 Akin Dicks Kirk
 Alexander Dingell Klein (FL)
 Allen Doggett Kline (MN)
 Altmire Donnelly Knollenberg
 Andrews Doolittle Kuhl (NY)
 Arcuri Doyle LaHood
 Bachmann Drake Lamborn
 Bachus Dreier Lampson
 Barrett (SC) Duncan Langevin
 Barrow Edwards Larsen (WA)
 Bartlett (MD) Ehlers Larson (CT)
 Barton (TX) Ellsworth Latham
 Bean Emanuel LaTourette
 Becerra Emerson Latta
 Berkley Engel Levin
 Berman English (PA) Lewis (CA)
 Berry Eshoo Lewis (GA)
 Biggert Etheridge Lewis (KY)
 Bilbray Everett Linder
 Bilirakis Faleomavaega Lipinski
 Bishop (GA) Fallin LoBiondo
 Bishop (NY) Fattah Lofgren, Zoe
 Bishop (UT) Feeney Lowey
 Blackburn Ferguson Lucas
 Blumenauer Flake Lungren, Daniel
 Blunt Forbes E.
 Boehner Fortenberry Lynch
 Bonner Fortuño Mack
 Bono Mack Fossella Mahoney (FL)
 Boozman Foster Maloney (NY)
 Boren Foxx Manzullo
 Boswell Frank (MA) Marchant
 Boucher Franks (AZ) Markey
 Boustany Frelinghuysen Marshall
 Boyd (FL) Gallegly Matheson
 Boyda (KS) Garrett (NJ) Matsui
 Brady (PA) Gerlach McCarthy (CA)
 Brady (TX) Giffords McCaul (TX)
 Braley (IA) Gilchrest McCollum (MN)
 Broun (GA) Gillibrand McCotter
 Brown (SC) Gingrey McHenry
 Brown, Corrine Gohmert McHugh
 Brown-Waite, Goode McIntyre
 Ginny Goodlatte McKee
 Buchanan Gordon McMorris
 Burgess Granger Rodgers
 Burton (IN) Graves McNeerney
 Butterfield Green, Al McNulty
 Buyer Green, Gene Meek (FL)
 Calvert Hall (NY) Meeks (NY)
 Camp (MI) Hall (TX) Melancon
 Cannon Hare Mica
 Cantor Harman Michaud
 Capito Hastings (FL) Miller (FL)
 Capps Hastings (WA) Miller (MI)
 Capuano Hayes Miller (NC)
 Cardoza Heller Miller, Gary
 Carnahan Hensarling Mitchell
 Carney Herger Mollohan
 Carson Herseth Sandlin Moore (KS)
 Carter Higgins Moran (KS)
 Castle Hill Murphy (CT)
 Castor Hinchey Murphy, Patrick
 Cazayoux Hinojosa Murphy, Tim
 Chabot Hobson Murtha
 Chandler Hodes Musgrave
 Christensen Hoekstra Myrick
 Clay Holden Nadler
 Cleaver Holt Neal (MA)
 Clyburn Hooley Neugebauer
 Coble Hoyer Norton
 Cole (OK) Hulshof Nunes
 Conaway Hunter Oberstar
 Conyers Ingalls (SC) Obey
 Cooper Inslee Ortiz
 Costa Israel Pallone
 Costello Issa Pascarell
 Courtney Jackson (IL) Paul
 Cramer Jefferson Payne
 Crenshaw Johnson (IL) Pearce
 Cubin Johnson, E. B. Pence
 Cuellar Johnson, Sam Perlmutter
 Culberson Jones (NC) Peterson (MN)
 Davis (AL) Jones (OH) Peterson (PA)
 Davis (CA) Jordan
 Davis (IL) Kagen
 Davis (KY) Kanjorski
 Davis, David Kaptur
 Davis, Lincoln Keller
 Davis, Tom Kennedy
 Deal (GA) Kildee
 DeFazio Kilpatrick
 DeGette Kind Pryce (OH)

Putnam Sestak Tsongas
 Radanovich Shadegg Turner
 Rahall Shays Udall (CO)
 Ramstad Shea-Porter Udall (NM)
 Rangel Sherman Upton
 Regula Shimkus Van Hollen
 Rehberg Shuler Velázquez
 Reichert Shuster Visclosky
 Renzi Simpson Walberg
 Reyes Sires Walden (OR)
 Reynolds Skelton Walsh (NY)
 Rodriguez Slaughter Walz (MN)
 Rogers (AL) Smith (NE) Wamp
 Rogers (KY) Smith (NJ) Wasserman
 Rogers (MI) Smith (TX) Schultz
 Rohrabacher Smith (WA) Waters
 Roskam Snyder Watt
 Ross Souder Watson
 Rothman Space Weir
 Roybal-Allard Speier Waxman
 Royce Spratt Weiner
 Rumpersberger Stupak Weldon (FL)
 Ryan (OH) Sullivan Weller
 Ryan (WI) Sullivan Westmoreland
 Salazar Tancredo Wexler
 Sali Tanner Whitfield (KY)
 Sarbanes Tauscher Wilson (NM)
 Saxton Taylor Wilson (OH)
 Scalise Terry Wilson (SC)
 Schiff Thompson (CA) Wittman (VA)
 Schmidt Thompson (MS) Wolf
 Schwartz Thornberry Wu
 Scott (GA) Tiahrt Wynn
 Scott (VA) Tiberi Yarmuth
 Sensenbrenner Tierney Young (AK)
 Sessions Towns Young (FL)

NOES—33

Baca Hirono Ros-Lehtinen
 Baldwin Honda Sánchez, Linda
 Clarke Johnson (GA) T.
 Crowley Kucinich Sanchez, Loretta
 Diaz-Balart, L. Lee Schakowsky
 Diaz-Balart, M. McDermott
 Ellison McGovern
 Farr Moore (WI) Solis
 Filner Moran (VA) Stark
 Gonzalez Napolitano Sutton
 Grijalva Olver Woolsey
 Gutierrez Pastor

NOT VOTING—14

Baird Jackson-Lee Miller, George
 Bordallo (TX) Pickering
 Campbell (CA) Loeb sack Richardson
 Cohen McCarthy (NY) Rush
 Cummings McCreary Welch (VT)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

The Acting CHAIRMAN (during the vote). Members have less than 1 minute remaining to vote.

□ 1130

Mr. ELLISON changed his vote from "aye" to "no."

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Chairman, earlier today I was questioning witnesses on the arts and humanities as Chairwoman of the Healthy Families and Communities Subcommittee of the Education and Labor Committee. I missed two votes. I would like the RECORD to reflect how I would have voted had I been able to get to the floor in time.

Rollcall No. 296 on sustaining the ruling of the chair, I would have voted "aye."

Rollcall No. 297 on the Altmire amendment to H.R. 5818, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Chairman, I was unavoidable detained in a meeting earlier today, May 8, 2008, in the other body regarding legislation I have sponsored, and, therefore, was absent from the Chamber when rollcall votes 296 and 297 were taken. Had I been present for these two votes taken in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union,

I would have voted as follows: "aye" to sustain the ruling of the Chair (rollcall vote 296) and "aye" on the amendment offered by Mr. ALTMIRE of Pennsylvania to H.R. 5818 (rollcall vote 297).

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Chairman, this legislation represents a fair, commonsense solution that will give assistance to communities struggling to deal with the problem of vacant homes, help stabilize the housing market, and help low income families obtain a home they can afford and be proud of.

The Neighborhood Stabilization Act will make available to communities throughout the Nation \$15 billion in new zero interest loans and grants for the purchase and rehabilitation of foreclosed properties. State and local governments have been hit hard by the foreclosure crisis not only because they have been stuck with the bill for maintaining and securing vacant homes, but also because they face decreased property tax revenues. Not only are these properties off the tax rolls, but empty houses drive down the value of other homes in the neighborhood which further decreases tax revenues.

Just as important, this bill will get these homes occupied by families who truly need them. A priority will be given to low income families, families who have lost a home through foreclosure, as well as first responders, veterans, public school teachers, and homeless persons.

This measure will bring almost \$600 million in assistance to the State of Michigan at a time when it is badly needed. Michigan has been particularly hard hit by the President's misguided economic policies, most especially his failure to address the foreclosure crisis. I sincerely hope that the President, who approved a \$30 billion bailout for the investment bank Bear Stearns, will see to it to sign and implement this bill which will provide much needed assistance to State and local governments.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of this housing package because it is imperative that Congress take action to assist homeowners struggling today. The epidemic of home losses in this country is severe, with the impact not only causing harm to the families who lose their homes, but also affecting nearby homeowners who suffer drops in their property values and communities who suffer the impact of lower tax revenues.

Nationally, the number of seriously delinquent loans and new foreclosures in January and February of this year was over 2.1 million, an increase of 8 percent over the previous quarter and a 55 percent increase from a year earlier.

The housing crisis has severely impacted my congressional district, particularly the city of Cleveland, Ohio. Cleveland's weak housing market coupled with a housing over-supply has created a large number of foreclosures and abandoned properties. As of December 2007, the number of properties in Cleveland identified as abandoned, nuisance properties was 8,588. According to the Cleveland Department of Community Development, the estimated number of homes entering the tax foreclosure pool in 2008 was 1,000—with 900 homes within this pool requiring public demolition. These abandoned and foreclosed properties exist in every neighborhood in Cleveland, but there are concentrations in communities in my district where the real estate market has completely collapsed.

I support this housing package because it will greatly assist my constituents in Cleveland as well as thousands of Americans across the country by helping families stay in their homes while they repay their mortgage debt. This legislation will also help avoid the decreased property values and increased crime rates that often come with concentrations of foreclosed and abandoned properties.

I wish to thank Chairman RANGEL and Ranking Member MCCREY as well as Chairman FRANK and Subcommittee Chair WATERS for their work on these important pieces of legislation. I am extremely pleased that sections of H.R. 1043, the Community Restoration and Revitalization Act, a piece of legislation I have introduced for the past two Congresses, was incorporated into the housing legislation before us today.

This bill simplifies the Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit, "Rehab Credit" thereby making it easier to utilize the credit for revitalizing our nation's older neighborhoods, harnessing greater housing potential in underutilized historic and older buildings, and focusing more private sector investment in smaller, "main street" oriented commercial structures.

The language in the bill that explicitly refers to the "historic nature" of development projects is important because, for the first time, it directs state housing agencies to create a priority within their qualified allocation plans for historic properties that can be converted to affordable housing through the use of both the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit and the Federal historic tax credit.

Additionally, the bill simplifies the rules for nonprofit and government agencies who sponsor or rent space in historic tax credit projects and significantly lowers the cost of these transactions.

In addition to simplifying the Rehab Tax Credit, the bill would also facilitate coordination of the credit with the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit by exempting both credits from the restrictions of the AMT rules.

Since its inception, the rehab credit has been responsible for 133 residential and commercial projects in the city of Cleveland, leveraging about \$760 million of private investment. Because of the credit, downtown Cleveland and neighborhoods like the Warehouse District, the Gateway District, and East Fourth Street are being revitalized—pumping more investment into the region and revenue to the city and State. This legislation is crucial to furthering the economic development of Cleveland and the State of Ohio.

My hope is that as we move forward we shall have the other important parts of H.R. 1043 enacted, as well as further simplification and clarification of the regulations regarding nonprofit and government use of historic buildings rehabilitated with the help of the Federal historic tax credit.

I urge my colleagues to support the passage of this housing package.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 5818, the Neighborhood Stabilization Act of 2008. This bill would provide \$15 billion in loans and grants, administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, for States to buy and, rehabilitate foreclosed and vacated housing properties in order to resell or rent them out.

While I have some reservations about the balance in this bill between loans and grants, I think the potential threat to the value of American homes and the safety of our com-

munities justifies the overall cost. Studies have shown that home foreclosures adversely affect the value of other homes in the same neighborhood, and the rate of home foreclosures in a neighborhood directly corresponds to a spike in crime in that neighborhood. In many cases, foreclosed and vacated homes have become the dens of vagrants, drug addicts and drug dealers.

H.R. 5818 attempts to reduce the likelihood of these problems by helping States buy and refurbish foreclosed and vacated housing properties to make them an appealing choice for qualified families to buy or rent. In addition, this legislation includes provisions to protect against housing speculator abuse by requiring that homes purchased and refurbished by a State be resold to families whose income does not exceed 140 percent of the area median income. This bill offers further targeted assistance for those Americans who need it most by requiring that half of the bill's grant money be dedicated to housing families at or below 50 percent area median income.

Finally, H.R. 5818 will direct funds to the States with the greatest need. Under this bill, each State's loan and grant authority would be based on the State's percentage of nationwide foreclosures reported during the previous four calendar quarters. This is a significant point for my home State of Colorado, which has consistently ranked among the top 10 States in percentage of foreclosures.

Mr. Chairman, this bill is a good measure that deserves our support. As I previously stated, the benefits of this legislation outweigh my concerns over its cost, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEINER) having assumed the chair, Mr. McNULTY, Acting Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5818) to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make loans to States to acquire foreclosed housing and to make grants to States for related costs, pursuant to House Resolution 1174, reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT OFFERED BY MR. SHADEGG

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. SHADEGG. I am in its present form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Shadegg moves to recommit the bill H.R. 5818 to the Committee on Financial Services with instructions to report the same back to the House promptly in the form to which it may be perfected at the time of this motion with the following amendments:

Page 6, line 3, before "provide" insert "subject to any preferences as may be specifically set forth in this subsection with respect to amounts for housing rehabilitation and to the preferences required under the last two paragraphs of this subsection,".

Page 6, line 15, strike "for veterans,".

Page 6, strike "or providing" in line 18 and all that follows through "located" in line 20 and insert the following: "except that preferences established pursuant to this paragraph shall be subordinate to any preferences as may be specifically set forth in this subsection with respect to amounts for housing rehabilitation and to the preferences required under the last two paragraphs of this subsection".

Page 6, line 24, strike "and".

Page 7, line 5, strike the period and insert a semicolon.

Page 7, after line 5, insert the following:

(14) subject only to any preferences as may be specifically set forth in this subsection with respect to amounts for housing rehabilitation and to the last paragraph of this subsection and notwithstanding any other preferences established or authorized by this subsection, provide priority preference, in use of amounts from grants or loans under this Act, for providing housing for veterans and for teachers or workforce (including law enforcement officers, firefighters, and other first responders) who are employed by the city or locality in which the housing is located; and

(15) provide that in carrying out any other provision of this subsection that provides preference, in the use of amounts from grants or loans under this Act (or any portion of such amounts), for providing housing for veterans and other classes, highest preference shall be provided for providing housing for disabled veterans, and then preference shall be given to providing housing for other veterans and such other classes; and

Page 27, after line 16, insert the following:

(k) LIMITATION ON RESIDENCY.—No individual may purchase or lease any qualified foreclosed housing that was acquired using any amounts provided under a grant or loan under this Act, or any dwelling unit in any such qualified foreclosed housing, if such individual has been convicted under Federal or State law of a drug-dealing offense, a sex offense, or mortgage fraud.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arizona is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, this legislation is flawed in many respects. It provides \$7.5 billion in loans to cities, States, and nonprofits to buy foreclosed homes from mortgage lenders who made bad loans. That will not help people avoid foreclosures. In addition,

it provides \$7.5 billion in grants to rehabilitate those homes. As such, it is a giveaway to the mortgage industry that made bad loans.

Nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, this motion to recommit is a genuine attempt to improve this bill. If the majority insists on going down this path, the least we can do is to give those who have served our Nation the highest priority in receiving housing assistance under this legislation, and to make sure that those who have preyed upon our society as criminals are not helped by the legislation.

In its present form, the bill allows homes acquired and rehabilitated with taxpayer money to be purchased by convicted drug dealers, convicted sex offenders, and people who have been convicted of mortgage fraud.

Last night our colleague, Mr. ALTMIRE, offered an amendment that prohibits homes made available for sale under this bill, acquired and rehabilitated with taxpayer dollars, from being sold to illegal immigrants. That was a good amendment and I am glad to see that the House just now overwhelmingly adopted it.

In advocating for his amendment, Mr. ALTMIRE said that homes made available through this bill should be available only to law abiding U.S. citizens.

My colleagues, Mr. ALTMIRE is right. This motion to recommit brings the same commonsense to this bill that Mr. ALTMIRE's amendment did. It simply says that homes made available under the bill cannot be sold to drug dealers, sex offenders, or people convicted of mortgage fraud.

I ask my colleagues, imagine how you would feel if your taxes were taken under this legislation and used by the government to purchase foreclosed homes, then to rehabilitate a foreclosed home in your neighborhood, and then if that house was put on the market and sold by the government to a convicted drug dealer, a convicted sex offender, or person guilty of fraud in the mortgage industry who contributed to the very housing turmoil we are now faced with. You would be outraged, and you should be. We cannot let that happen under this legislation.

The second provision of the motion to recommit corrects another defect in the bill. Yesterday an amendment was offered to provide veterans and public safety officers such as firemen and police with a preference in purchasing homes made available under this bill. The chairman of the committee quite appropriately accepted that amendment. But we can do better than that. This motion to recommit takes that concept one step further. It provides that disabled American veterans are to be accorded an even higher preference in acquiring homes under this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, every Member in this body is aware tragically that American soldiers are returning with horrific wounds. Like many of you, I have been

to Landstuhl Hospital in Germany and visited our fighting men and women. I have been to Walter Reed Army Hospital and visited them. It is wonderful that we can save their lives, but this motion to recommit recognizes and rewards their sacrifices. It provides that disabled veterans, seeking to purchase a home made available under this legislation, must be given first preference.

Mr. Speaker, these are commonsense changes to this bill that will improve it, and I urge my colleagues to adopt them by passing this motion to recommit.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I hope we are here seriously to legislate. The effect of adopting this will be to make it much less likely that veterans will get the preference. Now I understand the frustration of Members on the other side. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) offered an amendment yesterday, notwithstanding any other preferences, first priority to veterans, members of the Armed Forces on active duty, members of the National Guard or Armed Forces reserves, school teachers and emergency responders. That is now in the bill. That is part of the bill.

The gentleman phrased his motion as "promptly." Now we have already seen the kind of delay tactics that the minority has been prone to use. Send this back to committee, and you are very unlikely to get it back on the floor in a way in which we can pass it. So last night we adopted preference for veterans. Today, in the guise of redoing what we have already done, a motion is offered that will keep veterans from benefiting from that preference because the bill won't go anywhere.

The gentleman was honest. He began by saying he doesn't like this bill. And since a head-on assault will not pass—no, I will not yield. I will explain why I won't yield. I won't yield because I have consistently, when I was chairing the committee, been open to amendments. I have yielded. But when at the last minute with zero notice something is drafted with no chance to discuss it, and they use their full 5 minutes, of course I won't give up the small amount of time we have. It is already inadequate to discuss this.

So this will prevent the veterans from getting the preferences they already have. You have seen what can happen with these delays. We have preference for veterans in this bill.

Now let me say procedurally, if this had said "forthwith," I would have been less concerned about it. But there is also this: during the markup of this bill, we accepted nine Republican amendments. Yesterday we accepted several Republican amendments. If I was seriously interested in helping the people who are to be the beneficiaries,

I would have offered an amendment at the Rules Committee, and we would have accepted it. I would not have waited to say "promptly" so that I would have used the disabled veterans as a way to kill the bill.

Similarly, with regard to mortgage fraud—and by the way, this is through the cities. If you think that the cities are going to give out money to rapists, worry about it.

I would be prepared, if this would have been put forward in an orderly way so we could vet it and not have unintended consequences as we did with the last recommit on a bill from our committee, we could have accepted it.

As we go forward, and let me say further in conference with the Senate, yes, I think we ought to make it explicit that people with mortgage fraud don't get it, as well as certain kinds of sex offenders. Yes, I think we can do these things, and we will do them going forward.

But to take it now with a "promptly," designed to kill the bill, and it will in fact undo, take back the veterans' preferences we gave yesterday, and to use disabled veterans and to use concern for the law as a cover to kill a bill for which the votes do not exist to kill it is the wrong way to go.

We have amended this bill. Nine amendments were accepted in committee. None of these were offered. Had they been, they would have substantially been accepted, and they can be accepted going forward. But you have seen, my colleagues, what has gone on here. Send this back to committee, we have to go back to committee. We have rules to deal with. You have a crowded agenda in the committee. You will not see this bill again probably for weeks, and we will again have these tactics.

The gentleman from Georgia is going to raise the point that it can come out the next day. It cannot. The rules of the House do not allow it. And anyone who thinks you are going to get unanimous consent from this group to waive four and five rules is not paying attention. After we just had two votes on an appeal of a ruling, a frivolous appeal, and we get an appeal of the appeal because people didn't like the wording on the board, you tell me if you think we are going to get serious legislative efforts.

□ 1145

So, yeah, I want veterans preferences in the bill. Going forward, we can address this. But Members who are worried about some kind of ad long before your election, the sensible parts of this will be embodied in the bill. You will have a chance to vote to protect against mortgage fraud, et cetera. But vote for this today.

And as the gentleman from Arizona made clear, he doesn't like the bill. And I understand the problem the President has. The administration can't decide whether it wants to sign or veto. There are internal debates, so it falls to our Republican colleagues to

save this President from having to make the decision.

I urge my colleagues not to fall for that partisan ploy. Vote down this effort to delay, and perhaps delay indefinitely this bill. We will, going forward, take the good parts of it and incorporate it. Had they been substantially offered seriously before, they would have been adopted.

Please, let's not fall for a partisan ploy and kill a good bill.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Speaker, I rise in support of the second amendment to the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008.

Today, one quarter of subprime adjustable-rate mortgages are delinquent by 90 days or more. As a consequence, during 2007, foreclosure proceedings were initiated on about 1.5 million U.S. homes. The Federal Reserve has projected that the rate of foreclosures will grow even higher in 2008.

We know that many of these foreclosures are unavoidable. There are cases where investors choose foreclosure because a property's value has depreciated significantly, or a borrower's personal circumstances have changed. And, many times, as has recently become alarmingly prevalent, a borrower was put into a loan inappropriate for their circumstances. But, if a foreclosure is preventable, and the borrower wants to stay in the home, the economic argument for trying to avoid foreclosure is strong.

Foreclosures impose high legal and administrative costs. Foreclosures can destabilize communities, reduce area property values and lower municipal tax revenues. And, at the national level, foreclosures add to the stock of homes for sale, increasing downward pressure on home prices, which affects the broader economy.

In the past, mortgage defaults were usually triggered by a borrower's life event, such as the loss of a job, serious illness or injury, or divorce. But the widespread decline in home prices we are witnessing today is a relatively new phenomenon and lenders, servicers and policymakers will have to develop new strategies to meet this new challenge.

To be effective, our approach must closely target the borrowers at the highest risk of foreclosure while avoiding programs that give borrowers, who can make their payments, an incentive to default.

The American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act will address these problems. The bill's second amendment contains several housing-related tax provisions recently reported by the Ways and Means Committee as part of the Housing Assistance Tax Act.

The amendment creates a refundable tax credit of up to \$7,500 for first-time homebuyers that would serve as an interest-free loan, and provides an additional standard deduction in 2008 of up to \$350 for individuals and \$700 for couples for state and local property taxes. It authorizes an additional \$10 billion in taxexempt bonds that would be used to refinance subprime loans, finance the construction of low-income rental housing, and support loans to first-time homebuyers.

To assist our men and women in uniform, many of whom have put themselves in harms way in service to their country, the amendment adds provisions from a measure ap-

proved by the Veterans Affairs Committee that extends to one year, from 90 days, the period following active duty service during which service members are protected from foreclosures.

This amendment will fully offset the cost of its tax provisions in two ways. First, by raising \$8 billion through FY 2018 by requiring brokers to report their customer's basis in securities transactions, and second, by raising \$3.2 billion through FY 2018 by delaying, until 2010, new rules allocating interest expenses between foreign and domestic sources.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to stand today in support of the second amendment to The American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008 and I urge my colleagues to join me.

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, this legislation represents a fair, common sense solution that will allow homeowners to stay in their homes and help stabilize the housing market. I would like to extend my gratitude to Chairman FRANK for his hard work on this legislation, which will be of critical importance in Michigan, where there are thousands of homeowners in danger of foreclosure. I am especially pleased that this bill includes legislation which I cosponsored that would provide up to \$300 billion in new loan guarantees to help refinance at-risk borrowers into viable mortgages. In addition, this legislation includes important provisions that expand homeownership opportunities for veterans, seniors, and first-time homebuyers.

This legislation will help both homeowners and lenders, but this is no bailout. Lenders who participate will have to take a loss, but their losses under this program will be far less than if these properties go into foreclosure. Borrowers who realize a profit when they sell their home must return some of that profit to the government. The United States provided similar leadership during the New Deal using a program run by the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, HOLC. Much like the HOLC, this program stands to save millions of homes from foreclosure at a minimum cost to the taxpayers.

I would especially like to thank Chairman FRANK for his assistance in securing passage of a provision important to the residents of Parkview Apartments in Ypsilanti, Michigan. I have been working for four years now to try to facilitate the transfer of this property to Ypsilanti Housing Authority. Chairman FRANK and the staff of the Financial Services Committee have been instrumental in these efforts, which are designed to clarify Congressional intent regarding certain properties that entered the Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, property disposition process prior to the enactment of the Deficit Reduction Act, DRA, but where the initial proposed disposition was delayed.

While I believe that Parkview is already subject to the grandfathering provision of the DRA, this provision clarifies that such properties should be considered "pre-DRA" properties, and that HUD should proceed with its prior disposition contracts as to those properties. This provision is one of many that was included in legislation that passed the House last year, and is now being included in this bill as part of a comprehensive housing package. This legislation is of the utmost importance to the Congress, and it is my hope and expectation that it will soon be enacted into law.

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3221, The Foreclosure

Prevention Act of 2008 and the package on the floor today that will provide much-needed relief to homeowners at risk of foreclosure across the country.

The collapse of the mortgage market that has unraveled over the last year has not only impacted homebuyers who entered into non-traditional mortgage products that they now find they are unable to repay, but has also reverberated throughout the economy. We must act with necessary urgency and pass the package before us today.

My home State of Indiana has been significantly impacted by this foreclosure crisis, which is contributing to an ongoing economic downturn. Our State has lost 27,000 jobs in the manufacturing industry since 2000. Additionally, in 2007, 53,000 Indiana homes received foreclosure notices. This number is up 74 percent from the number of notices in 2005. That means that 53,000 families in my State+ may be forced to move out of their homes, pull their children out of school and find another place to live. Mr. Speaker, many of these people are not reckless speculators, but rather hard-working families struggling to make ends meet.

This package allows lenders, investors and homeowners to voluntarily sit down at a table and work out a plan to rescue mortgages that may be on the verge of foreclosure. It takes a responsible approach to provide rescue assistance to those who most need it without encouraging irresponsible behavior.

Mr. Speaker, I am also glad to see that this legislation includes a bill I introduced to raise loan limits on FHA Title I-insured manufactured home loans which have not been adjusted since 1992, allowing more people to enter into a mortgage that they can afford on a high-quality affordable home.

Also, this comprehensive package includes a number of tax incentives to help prospective and current homeowners. It provides a \$7,500 tax credit to eligible families to put towards their downpayment on their first home. Existing homeowners who do not itemize their tax returns for 2008 would be eligible to deduct up to \$700 for property tax relief at a time they need it most.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman FRANK for his continued leadership in responding to the housing and economic crisis and I urge all my colleagues to pass the Housing Rescue Package today.

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3221, American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008, and amendments to the bill. This bill is a critical step towards stabilizing our housing market, and providing assistance to thousands of Americans facing foreclosure.

There are grave problems facing our current housing market and economy. Decreasing home values and lack of available credit are damaging the market, and skyrocketing mortgages have led thousands of families to face the frightening prospect of foreclosure. In my state of North Carolina alone, PEW Charity Trusts and the Center for Responsible Lending estimate there will be 53,254 foreclosures in 2008 and 2009. Not only does foreclosure strike at the heart of these families' financial stability, but unfortunately the damage spreads across all of our communities. The same study shows that over 330,000 homes in North Carolina will be devalued by the spillover impact of the foreclosures, and North Carolina

stands to lose over \$860 million in property values.

However, H.R. 3221 is a comprehensive package that can provide relief to these families and our communities in a variety of ways. Provisions in this bill reform and modernize the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) as well as government sponsored entities Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. These programs allow for stability in the housing market and by strengthening their loan limits and regulations, they can serve as a safer alternative to the riskier subprime loans we have recently seen. The American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008 also includes a tax benefit for first-time homebuyers as well as an additional credit on property taxes for existing homeowners who claim the standard deduction. These measures will help revive the housing market and get our sluggish economy moving in the right direction.

This bill also creates a voluntary FHA initiative that provides mortgage refinancing assistance to allow families to stay in their homes while also strengthening the housing market. This voluntary plan would require lenders to write-down some of the existing mortgage in order to qualify for FHA backing, and would require borrowers to return portions of any future profits on the house to the government in order to prevent foreclosure. It is important to note that under H.R. 3221, only owner-occupied homes facing foreclosure can qualify for this mortgage assistance, and speculators, investors, and second-homeowners are not eligible. This provision represents a compromise by all participating parties and can keep people in their homes and improve surrounding communities.

I support the passage of H.R. 3221, American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation.

In most circumstances, I consider it counter-productive and not in the best interest of the American people for the Federal Government to intervene in the free market process. However, in certain exceptional times, I believe it is the duty of the Federal Government to act for the greater good of our Nation. And I think we are experiencing such an exceptional moment in American history.

The provisions of this legislative package will help stabilize the downward trend in the housing industry and overall economy, and prevent that trend from spiraling out of control.

The danger is real. Just last month, the Pew Charitable Trusts released a study that forecast one in 25 homeowners in my home state of Colorado will be in foreclosure within the next two years if Congress does not act now to curb this impending disaster. The national forecast of homeowners in foreclosure within the next two years—one in 33—is only slightly less discouraging. If we stand by and do nothing, as some have suggested, the damage to the overall American economy could be devastating.

First and foremost, this bill will help American families at risk of foreclosure to stay in their homes by allowing the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) to guarantee qualified refinanced loans. To do so, however, homeowners and their lenders must agree to sacrifice. Lenders could recover no more than 85 percent of a property's current value, but could

avoid the potentially greater losses associated with unloading a foreclosed property. Meanwhile, participating homeowners could remain in their home, but must repay the Federal Government a percentage of the value of the home if they sell or refinance again.

The bill provides much needed measures to modernize the FHA, allowing expanded opportunities for families to secure affordable loans without having to turn to subprime lenders. The legislation also increases the Veterans Administration home loan guarantee limit, allowing our veterans to receive the dignified homeownership opportunities they deserve for honoring us with their service; reforms Government Sponsored Enterprises through strengthened regulation, while raising GSE loan limits for homes in high-cost areas; and encourages mortgage servicers to readjust at-risk mortgages by removing the threat of lawsuit.

This legislation would help remove some of the excess housing inventory by offering a refundable tax credit for first-time homebuyers. It would also provide additional mortgage revenue bonds for states to refinance subprime loans, and help prevent soldiers from being unfairly penalized for their service by providing more time to get their finances in order when they return from service before a lender could start foreclosure.

A final important piece of this legislation would simply protect the right of States and cities to regulate their own foreclosure process. Some have argued that national banks and financial institutions should be exempt from these rules. I, however, believe it is the right of States and cities to have their own requirements and enforce their own rules throughout the foreclosure process.

Mr. Speaker, I was very disappointed to learn of the Bush Administration's threat to veto this legislation, because I believe that it is important for us to act now to provide relief to America's stressed homeowners. It is my understanding that Federal Reserve Chairman Bernanke and Treasury Secretary Paulson, as well as other Administration officials, had worked with Chairman FRANK to shape provisions of this legislation, so this change of heart is doubly regrettable. I hope that the President will change his mind and sign this needed legislation when it reaches his desk.

This legislation has been carefully crafted to safeguard against fraud, corporate giveaways and speculator abuse. And as concerned as I was that the Federal Reserve had to devote \$29 billion to prevent the collapse of investment bank Bear Stearns, I am equally concerned about the Federal Government taking action to rescue the housing market. However, without the stability that the Fed provided the investment banking industry, experts tell us that the bottom may well have fallen out of our economy. And it appears the same is true for our housing market—without the stability this legislation will help provide, it may not have the chance to correct itself and, eventually, rebound. Main Street deserves the same attention as Wall Street.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting all three components of this legislation.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act, which will help cities and towns, but most importantly, individuals and families that have been adversely impacted by the foreclosure crisis.

In my home state of Rhode Island, this problem is particularly acute. Foreclosures have increased by 20 percent in the last few months, and it is our most vulnerable communities that have been disproportionately affected.

Last weekend I teamed with Rhode Island Housing—a nonprofit organization dedicated to keeping housing affordable—to hold a workshop for those facing foreclosure. While we helped many local families, it is time for the Federal Government to do its part on a national scale.

I commend Chairman FRANK and Chairman RANGEL for their leadership in bringing this critical measure to the floor. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3221, the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008. This package is a comprehensive response to the current housing crisis that has left many honest, hard-working Americans in financial distress.

H.R. 3221 is especially important to Hoosiers who have struggled as our state consistently ranks among the top ten for foreclosures nationally. The district I represent, which includes most of the City of Indianapolis, currently has around 17,000 foreclosed properties and around 7,200 in the preforeclosure phase. My constituents need the assistance available in this bill urgently.

This package includes key legislation such as Government Sponsored Enterprise reform, Federal Housing Administration modernization, the Housing Assistance Tax Act and H.R. 5830, a critical bill reported out of the Financial Services Committee last week that will help borrowers at risk of foreclosure refinance into more stable loans. These bills will not only help borrowers now, but strengthen the mortgage lending market moving forward.

In order to ensure borrowers would be aware of the important FHA refinancing opportunity under Chairman FRANK's bill, H.R. 5830, I introduced an amendment in the Financial Services Committee which stated that no less than 2 percent of funds available for counseling in the bill would be targeted towards notification to individuals who are eligible to refinance their mortgage under the bill's provisions.

Further, we know that African American mortgage consumers were 3.7 times more likely than white borrowers to receive subprime loans and Latinos were 2.3 times more likely. In order to help those disproportionately affected by these high-cost loans, my amendment further instructed the Secretary to give preference to organizations that have a proven track record for outreach within minority communities in allocating these notification resources. I am pleased the amendment received bipartisan support and was incorporated into this crucial piece of legislation.

I believe H.R. 3221 is the right approach to this complex housing crisis. I thank Chairman FRANK and Chairman RANGEL for their hard and thoughtful work on this bill and I look forward to seeing this legislation move forward.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this bipartisan housing stimulus package.

The foreclosure crisis is hurting communities all across the Nation, and my district has been especially impacted: 4,523 families in my district have already lost their homes this year. Over 11,000 families in San Bernardino Coun-

ty are currently in default. And the San Bernardino-Riverside area in the Inland Empire, ranked #2 nationwide in foreclosure filings this year.

Everyone pays when there are foreclosures! Crime increases, home values decline, schools are affected, and cities run deficits which impacts revenues for local police, fire, and social services.

H.R. 5818, the Neighborhood Stabilization Act which passed today, will help stabilize communities harmed by empty homes closed by foreclosure. It will provide loans and grants to States to buy and rehabilitate these properties and restore home values in neighborhoods.

The broader housing package is also important for many reasons: FHA Stabilization will allow lenders to refinance mortgages with FHA-insured loans to keep families in their homes. FHA Modernization increases FHA loan limits permanently to help high cost housing areas like the Inland Empire. The \$7,500 Tax Credit for Homebuyers will help first-time homebuyers purchasing their first home. Low-income Housing Credit Reform modernizes the credit to increase affordable housing in underserved neighborhoods. The increase in Mortgage Revenue Bonds will allow states to issue more bonds for housing and use the proceeds to refinance subprime mortgages.

Finally, my amendment to the financial services committee bill, H.R. 5830, will promote in-person housing counseling to reach homeowners in default. This is more effective than sending a letter in the mail and will help prevent many foreclosures.

I urge my colleagues to support this housing stimulus package. This is the right thing to do and will keep people in their homes.

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation to help homeowners and families affected by the housing crisis.

This past year has been one of the most difficult ever for middle class and low-income homeowners because of the collapse of the credit markets, the weak economy, and high energy prices. It is clear to all that what began as a housing crisis has become a crisis for the entire economy and the entire country.

The housing crisis put a strain on our banking system, and that has sent shock waves throughout the credit markets, for cars, for student loans, and for all consumers. American families in all walks of life are feeling the economic strain.

Millions of families across the Nation have lost or are at risk of losing their homes. Foreclosures in my congressional district, Solano County and Contra Costa County, are among the highest in the country. People are looking to Congress for help.

It is critical that we stabilize the housing market and reduce the number of homes going into foreclosure.

The bill we are considering today is urgently needed. It is designed to responsibly rescue those who are facing foreclosure. It responds directly to the current crisis, but it also establishes a system to try to prevent a similar crisis in the future.

This bill will provide mortgage refinancing assistance to keep families from losing their homes, protect neighboring home values, and help stabilize the housing market. The federal government will step in to insure \$300 billion in new mortgages.

This legislation will allow FHA to insure more affordable fixed rate loans for borrowers who are facing financial troubles. It will modernize the FHA and reform the GSEs while providing crucial liquidity to our mortgage markets now, and will also strengthen regulation and oversight for the future.

The mortgage collapse has sent shockwaves through our entire economy and it is clear that stabilizing the housing market is a critical step in strengthening our economy.

I am appalled that President Bush refuses to help American homeowners despite being perfectly willing to rescue Bear Stearns just a few months ago. It is reckless for the White House to threaten to veto this housing package that will make it easier for those in trouble to keep their homes and will help stabilize our economy.

I urge the President to support this bill.

With this legislation, we can begin to repair the economy, restore confidence in the markets, limit the damage to families and neighborhoods, and help build new affordable housing. This bill is good for hard working American families. We owe it to them to get it done.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, we're here today to take a stand on behalf of low-income and vulnerable Americans who have been left out, shut out, dropped out or forced out of any chance at decent, affordable housing because of the predatory economic policies of this Administration.

Under the leadership of Ways and Means Chairman CHARLES RANGEL, we have bipartisan legislation before us today that finally responds to the needs of the American people.

For too long, too many disadvantaged and vulnerable Americans have been forgotten, ignored or under-served when it came time to provide economic assistance.

For the first time in a long time we have legislation that recognizes and addresses the unique housing needs and circumstances of the working poor, and other vulnerable Americans.

We provide States and cities with incentives to ensure that low-income housing options remain available to those who need it most.

We increase the allocation of Federal low-income housing tax credits and expand the authority of States to issue tax-exempt bonds to help finance affordable housing.

Section 103 includes language to ensure that Federal assistance that helps vulnerable populations, like the elderly, the sick, and veterans, does not reduce the value of the Federal low-income housing tax credits used to finance affordable rental housing.

Section 104 allows for consideration of whether an affordable housing development employs technology and practices to improve its energy efficiency, when Federal low-income housing tax credits are allocated to affordable housing developments.

Section 104 also clarifies that students who were formerly in foster care are not precluded from renting affordable housing financed by Federal low-income housing tax credits.

This legislation touches the lives of real Americans who have been left behind or outright forgotten for too long.

I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

If we fail to meet the needs of vulnerable Americans, then we will fail to live up to our responsibility of governing on behalf of all people.

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5818, the Neighborhood Stabilization Act, and H.R. 3221, the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act.

These bills come at a critical time for America—and especially for my constituents on the Central and South Coasts of California. That is why I am extremely disappointed that the President has threatened to veto them both.

They include much-needed reforms of the Federal Housing Administration, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac, and usher these agencies into the 21st century.

But they also accomplish three tasks that are vital to the housing market and economy of the Central and South Coasts.

First, the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act makes permanent the temporary loan limit increases contained in the Economic Stimulus Act of 2008.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot stress enough how vital this provision is for my district.

Median home prices in Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties are well above the national average, and our families are truly struggling to obtain affordable housing.

Second, this bill will stem foreclosures by creating a voluntary mortgage refinancing program that allows families to stay in their homes.

Under this program, the Federal Housing Administration has the authority to refinance up to \$300 billion in imperiled mortgages.

With median home prices in Santa Barbara County alone declining almost 30 percent in the past year alone, it is undoubtedly in the best interests of lenders to participate in this program.

Lastly, the Neighborhood Stabilization Act establishes a loan and grant program for the purchase and rehabilitation of foreclosed homes.

Just this week one of my hometown newspapers, the Ventura County Star, reported on the negative impact that foreclosed homes have on communities.

Lower home values, increased crime, and safety hazards are just a few of the consequences that can result from foreclosure.

This bill prevents neighborhood decline by providing targeted assistance to state and local governments.

Mr. Speaker, American families need help, and that is exactly what is provided by the housing bills on the floor today.

I urge my colleagues to support these bills, and I urge the President to work together with Congress in addressing the needs of the hard-working families in America who want to keep their homes.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3221, the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008.

This vital legislation comes at a time of record-breaking gas prices, double digit increases in food prices and a weakening economy. On top of all these struggles, Americans now face a crisis at home and in their communities in the form of rising property foreclosures. In some parts of the country, neighborhoods are littered with “for sale” signs, and many families are struggling to keep up with their mortgage payments. The legislation we are debating on this floor today will empower communities to respond to the current home

mortgage crisis, prevent further lending abuses and increase federal oversight of the mortgage industry.

H.R. 3221 expands the Federal Housing Administration’s role in preventing foreclosures by expanding refinancing loan guarantees for at-risk homeowners. Today, families are facing variable interest rates, hidden fees, early payment penalties, but with enactment of the Foreclosure Prevention Act, the government will be there to provide relief and counseling. It also increases oversight to ensure regulators have the tools to prevent the next crisis. It expands housing counseling and consumer protections. The bill also establishes an affordable housing trust fund to provide assistance for low income households. The bill even makes it harder to foreclose on the homes of our returning troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

This bill also contains important language to my district and my hometown of Malden, Massachusetts. The tenants of the Heritage Apartments face an uncertain future, with an HUD affordability contract expiring soon. The tenants are facing possible displacement once an outstanding HUD mortgage is fully paid in a few years. The development is also in need of major renovations and upgrades that simply cannot be delayed. Unfortunately HUD is failing to ensure that the development remains affordable and livable by placing burdensome restrictions on prepayment of the outstanding mortgage and subsequent transfer to a new owner who is willing to finance the renovations.

Language in this bill would allow income-eligible residents to qualify for enhanced housing vouchers following the prepayment of the HUD mortgage and the property transfer and directs HUD to approve such actions. I want to thank the Chairman of the Financial Services Committee (Mr. FRANK) for his assistance in ensuring that this important provision is included in this housing bill.

Today, with this legislation, we are taking steps to revitalize our communities for a better tomorrow. I strongly urge this House to vote to approve this bill.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, over the past months, economic conditions in our country have soured. Particularly troublesome to our Nation’s economic engine are skyrocketing home foreclosures and loan delinquency rates, which have risen over 85 percent in the past year.

Foreclosures and delinquencies are harmful to borrowers and lenders, but they also stifle economic growth, shake consumer confidence, and lower home values for those who live near foreclosed properties.

While borrowers in our country must certainly bear a great deal of responsibility when it comes to financial planning, the government can and must carefully examine the impact of soaring mortgage foreclosures on the whole U.S. economy and also thoroughly review regulatory oversight with respect to the mortgage business.

I have been pleased that the House has been active in addressing the mortgage crisis, voting last year to strengthen consumer protections against risky loans and to overhaul the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), Freddie Mac, and Fannie Mae, among other things. Under the leadership of Financial Services Committee Chairman BARNEY FRANK, the House is again poised to pass critical, market-

driven housing legislation designed to reduce foreclosures, to help families avoid foreclosure in the future, and to alleviate the negative impacts of foreclosures on property values and the national economy.

I am pleased to support this legislation, which would create a new voluntary program within FHA that would offer lenders an alternative to foreclosure. This approach, which is driven by the lenders’ desire to save costs associated with foreclosing on property, forces the lender, the borrower, and the government to all make sacrifices to ensure families have the ability to stay in their homes. While some have criticized this initiative as a government bailout of those who have made poor financial choices, in my view, it represents an innovative, market-driven way to shore up the housing market and the overall economy.

The measure would also create a \$7,500 tax incentive for first time home buyers and other important tax incentives while simultaneously modernizing the FHA, Freddie Mac, and Fannie Mae and increasing the loan limit for FHA and Veterans’ Administration loans.

I am hopeful that the Senate will act quickly on this well written bill and that it will be signed into law by the President.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3221, the Foreclosure Prevention Act.

At the end of last year, home foreclosure rates rose to the highest level in 20 years. Every day more than 7,000 people file for foreclosure, and it is predicted that predatory lending practices and sub prime mortgages will cause one in every thirty-three homeowners to foreclose on their mortgages in the next 2 years.

This is not an issue that is merely affecting those who have defaulted on their mortgages and their lenders; it is having a ripple effect throughout the economy. It has resulted in a nationwide decrease in housing prices of 12.4 percent, and 10 percent of Americans now owe more money on their mortgages than their homes are worth. It has caused a decrease in consumer confidence and corresponding decrease in consumer spending. It has contributed to a steep increase in job losses in housing related industries such as manufacturing, construction and related industries. These job losses combined with the loss of consumer confidence could reduce economic activity by over 150 billion dollars in 2008.

This is a crisis, and it is time, it is past time, that the Federal Government step in and help those that are suffering. H.R. 3221 would provide mortgage refinancing assistance to keep families in their homes, protect neighboring home values, and help stabilize the housing market. It would expand the Federal Housing Administration to help borrowers who are at risk of losing their homes to refinance into lower-cost government-insured mortgages that they can afford to repay. H.R. 3221 ensures that this will be done responsibly, by requiring lenders and mortgage investors to take significant losses in order to participate in this program and by requiring borrowers to share a portion of any resale of a refinanced home with the government.

H.R. 3221 also provides 11 billion dollars in tax incentives to help Americans purchase a first home or hold onto the ones that they already have. This includes tax credits to first-time homebuyers, an additional 10 billion dollars in mortgage revenue bonds for states,

and improves access to low-income housing. It also includes a provision that I wrote to allow homeowners who currently do not itemize their Federal tax returns to take an additional standard deduction for the state and local property taxes that they pay. The Temporary Tax Relief Act creates an additional standard deduction of \$350 for single filers and \$700 for joint filers for state and local real property taxes paid or accrued. This legislation will complement efforts that have already been implemented on the state and federal level to help address the housing crisis.

I am proud that several organizations in my home state of New Jersey have stepped in to provide services and assistance to New Jerseyans who are at risk of losing their homes. One of the shining examples of this is Legal Services of New Jersey. LSNJ created the Anti-Predatory Lending Project 5 years ago to provide legal services to borrowers victimized by predatory lenders. LSNJ's hard-working lawyers have helped almost 500 families who were facing foreclosure receive legal assistance. I would like to commend LSNJ for the work that they have done on behalf of the residents of my central New Jersey district and for all New Jerseyans who have been at risk of losing their homes.

H.R. 3221 and the companion bill that the House of Representatives will be considering, H.R. 5818, the Neighborhood Stabilization Act are a bold step towards addressing the mortgage crisis and the resulting economic downturn, and I urge my colleagues to support them.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the amendments to H.R. 3221, the American Housing Rescue and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2008, which the House is considering today. This urgently needed legislation makes a number of surgical reforms to help address the problems we are currently facing in our Nation's housing markets.

In particular, I am pleased that one of the amendments that we will consider today contains H.R. 5579, the Emergency Mortgage Loan Modification Act of 2008. I have worked with the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) to refine his original proposal and introduce a new bill. We also held a productive hearing on H.R. 5579 before the House Financial Services Capital Markets Subcommittee and made a number of revisions to the bill before bringing it to the floor today.

During the hearings on H.R. 5579 and throughout its legislative development, I have been clear about the intended goals of this legislation: to provide servicers a safe harbor from investor lawsuits. Servicers, in turn, would have to meet prescribed duties and enter into a "qualified loan modification" or "workout plan" which the legislation defines. It is my firm belief that with such an arrangement in place, servicers will more readily assist troubled homeowners and will have more tools at their disposal to prevent defaults and foreclosures.

Moreover, I would like to be clear about what the bill does not intend. H.R. 5579 does not intend to create a statutory preference for loss mitigation activities generally, nor does it limit the ability of servicers to pursue the full scope of available options. In drafting this legislation we sought to create a bill that honors the terms of existing contracts while at the same time recognizing that foreclosure is not in the best interests of the investor or borrower.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, Americans have been hit hard both by the current housing crisis and by the broader credit crunch. We can delay action no longer. I therefore urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3221, and especially the incorporated language from H.R. 5579.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRIES

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEINER). State your parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, isn't it true that if this motion passed, that it would be referred back to the committee from whence it came, and that it could be reported back the next legislative day?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair reaffirmed on November 15, 2007, at some subsequent time, the committee could meet and report the bill back to the House.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. The committee and the House are constrained by a number of rules that cause substantial numbers of days to elapse. Does this motion, if it passes, in any way empower us to forget those rules of the House which require a certain number of days in committee, certain number of layovers, an announcement of a markup, a delay before the bill is reported, the Rules Committee, et cetera? Does this motion in any way reduce any of those timetables?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair stated on November 15, 2007, an order of recommittal does not necessarily waive any rules, but the Chair cannot render an advisory opinion on what points of order might lie.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Parliamentary inquiry, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia will state his parliamentary inquiry.

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Mr. Speaker, isn't it true if you have 218 votes you can do just about anything you want to in this House?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has not stated a proper parliamentary inquiry.

Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 and clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to recommit will be followed by 5-minute votes on passage of the bill, and motion to suspend the rules on H.R. 4279.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 210, noes 216, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 298]

AYES—210

Aderholt	Frelinghuysen	Murphy, Patrick
Akin	Gallegly	Murphy, Tim
Alexander	Garrett (NJ)	Musgrave
Bachmann	Gerlach	Myrick
Bachus	Giffords	Neugebauer
Barrett (SC)	Gilchrest	Nunes
Barrow	Gillibrand	Pearce
Bartlett (MD)	Gingrey	Pence
Barton (TX)	Gohmert	Peterson (PA)
Biggart	Goode	Petri
Billbray	Goodlatte	Pickering
Billirakis	Granger	Pitts
Bishop (UT)	Graves	Platts
Blackburn	Hall (TX)	Poe
Blunt	Hastings (WA)	Porter
Boehner	Hayes	Price (GA)
Bonner	Heller	Pryce (OH)
Bono Mack	Hensarling	Putnam
Boozman	Herger	Radanovich
Boustany	Hill	Ramstad
Brady (TX)	Hobson	Regula
Broun (GA)	Hoekstra	Rehberg
Brown (SC)	Hulshof	Reichert
Brown-Waite,	Hunter	Renzi
Ginny	Inglis (SC)	Reynolds
Buchanan	Issa	Rogers (AL)
Burgess	Johnson (IL)	Rogers (KY)
Burton (IN)	Johnson, Sam	Rogers (MI)
Buyer	Jordan	Rohrabacher
Calvert	Keller	Ros-Lehtinen
Camp (MI)	King (IA)	Roskam
Cannon	King (NY)	Royce
Cantor	Kingston	Ryan (WI)
Capito	Kirk	Sali
Carney	Kline (MN)	Saxton
Carter	Knollenberg	Scalise
Castle	Kuhl (NY)	Schmidt
Cazayoux	LaHood	Sensenbrenner
Chabot	Lamborn	Sessions
Coble	Lampson	Shade
Cole (OK)	Latham	Shays
Conaway	LaTourette	Shimkus
Crenshaw	Latta	Shuster
Cubin	Lewis (CA)	Simpson
Culberson	Lewis (KY)	Smith (NE)
Davis (KY)	Linder	Smith (NJ)
Davis, David	LoBiondo	Smith (TX)
Davis, Tom	Lucas	Souder
Deal (GA)	Lungren, Daniel	Stearns
Dent	E.	Sullivan
Diaz-Balart, L.	Mack	Tancredo
Diaz-Balart, M.	Manzullo	Terry
Donnelly	Marchant	Thornberry
Doolittle	Marshall	Tiahrt
Drake	McCarthy (CA)	Tiberi
Dreier	McCauley (TX)	Turner
Duncan	McCotter	Upton
Ehlers	McCrery	Walberg
Ellsworth	McHenry	Walden (OR)
Emerson	McHugh	Walsh (NY)
English (PA)	McIntyre	Wamp
Everett	McKeon	Weldon (FL)
Fallin	McMorris	Weller
Feeney	Rodgers	Westmoreland
Ferguson	McNerney	Whitfield (KY)
Flake	Mica	Wilson (NM)
Forbes	Miller (FL)	Wilson (SC)
Fortenberry	Miller (MI)	Wittman (VA)
Fossella	Miller, Gary	Wolf
Fox	Mitchell	Young (AK)
Franks (AZ)	Moran (KS)	Young (FL)

NOES—216

Abercrombie	Boucher	Cooper
Ackerman	Boyd (FL)	Costa
Allen	Boyd (KS)	Costello
Altmire	Brady (PA)	Courtney
Andrews	Braley (IA)	Cramer
Arcuri	Brown, Corrine	Crowley
Baca	Butterfield	Cuellar
Baird	Capps	Cummings
Baldwin	Capuano	Davis (AL)
Bean	Cardoza	Davis (CA)
Becerra	Carnahan	Davis (IL)
Berkley	Carson	Davis, Lincoln
Berman	Castor	DeFazio
Berry	Chandler	DeGette
Bishop (GA)	Clarke	DeLaHunt
Bishop (NY)	Clay	DeLauro
Blumenauer	Cleaver	Dicks
Boren	Clyburn	Dingell
Boswell	Conyers	Doggett

Doyle	Levin	Sánchez, Linda	Barrow	Herseth Sandlin	Pastor	Ferguson	Latta	Renzi
Edwards	Lewis (GA)	T.	Bean	Higgins	Payne	Flake	Lewis (CA)	Reynolds
Ellison	Lipinski	Sanchez, Loretta	Becerra	Hill	Perlmutter	Forbes	Lewis (KY)	Rogers (AL)
Emanuel	Lofgren, Zoe	Sarbanes	Berkley	Hinchev	Peterson (MN)	Fortenberry	Linder	Rogers (KY)
Engel	Lowe	Schakowsky	Berman	Hinojosa	Pomeroy	Fossella	LoBiondo	Rogers (MI)
Eshoo	Lynch	Schiff	Berry	Hirono	Porter	Fox	Lucas	Rohrabacher
Etheridge	Mahoney (FL)	Schwartz	Bishop (GA)	Hodes	Price (NC)	Franks (AZ)	Lungren, Daniel	Roskam
Farr	Maloney (NY)	Scott (GA)	Bishop (NY)	Holden	Pryce (OH)	Frelinghuysen	E.	Royce
Fattah	Markey	Scott (VA)	Blumenauer	Holt	Rahall	Gallegly	Mack	Ryan (WI)
Filner	Matheson	Serrano	Boren	Honda	Ramstad	Garrett (NJ)	Manzullo	Sali
Foster	Matsui	Sestak	Boswell	Hooley	Rangel	Gerlach	Marchant	Saxton
Frank (MA)	McCarthy (NY)	Shea-Porter	Boucher	Hoyer	Reyes	Gillibrand	McCarthy (CA)	Scalise
Gonzalez	McCollum (MN)	Sherman	Boyd (FL)	Inslee	Rodriguez	Gingrey	McCaul (TX)	Schmidt
Gordon	McDermott	Shuler	Boyda (KS)	Israel	Ros-Lehtinen	Gohmert	McCotter	Sensenbrenner
Green, Al	McGovern	Sires	Brady (PA)	Jackson (IL)	Ross	Goode	McCrery	Sessions
Green, Gene	McNulty	Skelton	Braley (IA)	Jackson-Lee	Rothman	Goodlatte	McHenry	Shadegg
Grijalva	Meek (FL)	Slaughter	Brown, Corrine	(TX)	Roybal-Allard	Granger	McHugh	Shimkus
Hall (NY)	Meeks (NY)	Smith (WA)	Butterfield	Jefferson	Ruppersberger	Graves	McKeon	Shuster
Hare	Melancon	Snyder	Capps	Johnson (GA)	Ryan (OH)	Hall (TX)	McMorris	Simpson
Harman	Michaud	Solis	Capuano	Johnson, E. B.	Salazar	Hastings (WA)	Rodgers	Smith (NE)
Hastings (FL)	Miller (NC)	Space	Cardoza	Jones (OH)	Sánchez, Linda	Hayes	Mica	Smith (NJ)
Herseth Sandlin	Miller, George	Speier	Carnahan	Kagen	T.	Heller	Miller (FL)	Smith (TX)
Higgins	Mollohan	Spratt	Carney	Kanjorski	Sanchez, Loretta	Hensarling	Miller (MI)	Souder
Hinchev	Moore (KS)	Stark	Carson	Kaptur	Sarbanes	Herger	Miller, Gary	Stearns
Hinojosa	Moore (WI)	Stupak	Castor	Kennedy	Schakowsky	Hobson	Moran (KS)	Sullivan
Hirono	Moran (VA)	Sutton	Cazayoux	Kildee	Schiff	Hoekstra	Murphy, Tim	Tancredo
Hodes	Murphy (CT)	Tanner	Chandler	Kilpatrick	Schwartz	Hulshof	Musgrave	Terry
Holden	Murtha	Tauscher	Clarke	Kind	Scott (GA)	Hunter	Myrick	Thornberry
Holt	Nadler	Taylor	Clay	Klein (FL)	Scott (VA)	Inglis (SC)	Neugebauer	Tiahrt
Honda	Napolitano	Thompson (CA)	Cleaver	Kucinich	Serrano	Issa	Nunes	Tiberi
Hooley	Neal (MA)	Thompson (MS)	Clyburn	Lampson	Sestak	Johnson (IL)	Paul	Upton
Hoyer	Oberstar	Tierney	Conyers	Langevin	Shays	Johnson, Sam	Pearce	Walberg
Inslee	Obey	Towns	Cooper	Larsen (WA)	Shea-Porter	Jones (NC)	Pence	Walden (OR)
Israel	Olver	Tsongas	Costa	Larson (CT)	Sherman	Jordan	Peterson (PA)	Wamp
Jackson (IL)	Ortiz	Udall (CO)	Costello	LaTourette	Shuler	Keller	Petri	Weldon (FL)
Jackson-Lee	Pallone	Udall (NM)	Courtney	Lee	Sires	King (IA)	Pickering	Weller
(TX)	Pascrell	Van Hollen	Cramer	Levin	Skelton	King (NY)	Pitts	Westmoreland
Jefferson	Pastor	Velázquez	Crowley	Lewis (GA)	Slaughter	Kingston	Platts	Whitfield (KY)
Johnson (GA)	Paul	Visclosky	Cuellar	Lipinski	Smith (WA)	Kirk	Poe	Wilson (NM)
Johnson, E. B.	Payne	Walz (MN)	Cummings	Lofgren, Zoe	Snyder	Kline (MN)	Price (GA)	Wilson (SC)
Jones (OH)	Perlmutter	Wasserman	Davis (AL)	Lowe	Solis	Knollenberg	Putnam	Wittman (VA)
Kagen	Peterson (MN)	Schultz	Davis (CA)	Lynch	Space	Kuhl (NY)	Radanovich	Wolf
Kanjorski	Pomeroy	Waters	Davis (IL)	Mahoney (FL)	Speier	LaHood	Regula	Young (AK)
Kaptur	Price (NC)	Watson	Davis, Lincoln	Maloney (NY)	Spratt	Lamborn	Rehberg	Young (FL)
Kennedy	Rahall	Watt	DeFazio	Markey	Stark	Latham	Reichert	
Kildee	Rangel	Waxman	DeGette	Marshall	Sutton			
Kilpatrick	Reyes	Weiner	Delahunt	Matheson	Tanner			
Kind	Rodriguez	Welch (VT)	DeLauro	Matsui	Tauscher			
Klein (FL)	Ross	Wexler	Diaz-Balart, L.	McCarthy (NY)	Taylor			
Kucinich	Rothman	Wilson (OH)	Diaz-Balart, M.	McCollum (MN)	Thompson (CA)			
Langevin	Roybal-Allard	Woolsey	Dicks	McDermott	Thompson (MS)			
Larsen (WA)	Ruppersberger	Wu	Dingell	McGovern				
Larson (CT)	Ryan (OH)	Wynn	Doggett	McIntyre				
Lee	Salazar	Yarmuth	Donnelly	McNerney				

NOT VOTING—7

Campbell (CA)	Jones (NC)	Rush
Cohen	Loeb sack	
Gutierrez	Richardson	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members have 2 minutes remaining to cast their votes.

□ 1206

Messrs. KINGSTON and PICKERING changed their vote from “no” to “aye.” So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 239, noes 188, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 299]

AYES—239

Abercrombie	Altmire	Baca
Ackerman	Andrews	Baird
Allen	Arcuri	Baldwin

Aderholt	Brady (TX)	Conaway
Akin	Brown (GA)	Crenshaw
Alexander	Brown (SC)	Cubin
Bachmann	Brown-Waite,	Culberson
Bachus	Ginny	Davis (KY)
Barrett (SC)	Buchanan	Davis, David
Bartlett (MD)	Burgess	Davis, Tom
Barton (TX)	Burton (IN)	Deal (GA)
Biggart	Buyer	Dent
Bilbray	Calvert	Doolittle
Bilirakis	Camp (MI)	Drake
Bishop (UT)	Cannon	Dreier
Blackburn	Cantor	Duncan
Blunt	Capito	Ehlers
Boehner	Carter	Emerson
Bonner	Castle	English (PA)
	Chabot	Everett
	Coble	Fallin
	Cole (OK)	Feeney

NOES—188

Brady (TX)	Conaway
Brown (GA)	Crenshaw
Brown (SC)	Cubin
Brown-Waite,	Culberson
Ginny	Davis (KY)
Buchanan	Davis, David
Burgess	Davis, Tom
Burton (IN)	Deal (GA)
Buyer	Dent
Calvert	Doolittle
Camp (MI)	Drake
Cannon	Dreier
Cantor	Duncan
Capito	Ehlers
Carter	Emerson
Castle	English (PA)
Chabot	Everett
Coble	Fallin
Cole (OK)	Feeney

NOT VOTING—6

Campbell (CA)	Gutierrez	Richardson
Cohen	Loeb sack	Rush

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are reminded there are 2 minutes remaining on this vote.

□ 1216

Mr. KIRK changed his vote from “aye” to “no.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PRIORITIZING RESOURCES AND ORGANIZATION FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ACT OF 2008

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 4279, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4279, as amended.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.